Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 MC-02 H-02 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 IGA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 231149Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3248 INFO CINCPAC

SECRETBANGKOK 7183

E.O. 11652: GDS TAG: MASS, TH

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN MAP EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND

REF:(A) STATE 91714; (B) STATE 92659

- 1. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS ON APRIL 22, I TOOK UP THE DISPOSITION OF CAMBODIAN MAP EQUIPMENT NOW IN THAILAND WITH DEPUTY AND PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BOTH MADE STATEMENTS WITHIN THE PAST DAY OR SO TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH.
- 2. I TOLD BOTH PRAMAN AND CHATCHAI THAT WE RETAIN RESIDUAL TITLE TO THIS EQUIPMENT AND THAT, UNDER OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE GKR, THE EQUIPMENT CANNOT BE DISPOSED OF WITHOUT OUR APPROVAL AND REVERTS TO US WHEN IT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS GIVEN. I REQUESTED THAT THIS EQUIPMENT BE RETAINED IN THAILAND PENDING OUR DECISION ON ITS ULTIMATE DISPOSITION.
- 3. CHATCHAI CAME BACK IMMEDIATELY ASKING WHETHER THIS EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO THAILAND. I SAID IT WAS SECRET

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POSSIBLE THAT EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY

BY THE THAI ARMED FORCES MIGHT BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. HOWEVER, NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THIS AND I COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME.

4.COMMENT: IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR U.S. INTERESTS HERE AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME THAT WE TURN OVER TO THE RTG THAT EQUIPMENT FROM THE CAMBODIAN MAP WHICH THEY CAN ABSORB AND USE EFFECTIVELY. THE THAI ARE CURRENTLY IN A STATE OF TRAUMA OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA WHICH UNDERCUT BASIC ASPECTS OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY AND POSE ADDITIONAL THREATS TO THEIR SECURITY. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, A FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IS NOW UDERWAY. BY JUDICIOUS USE OF THIS EXCESS EQUIPMENT AT NO COST TO THE THAI MAP WE CAN SIGNAL OUR SUPPORT FOR THAILAND IN A WAY THAT IS MEANINGFUL. THIS WILL STRENGHTEN THE HAND OF OUR FRIENDS AND INCREASE THE ODDS THAT THE CURRENT RETHINKING WITHIN THE RTG DOES NOT TAKE A TURN ADVERSE TO OUR BASIC IN-TERESTS. IT WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN OUR POSITON AS WE ENTER INTO TALKS ABOUT U.S. FORCE LEVELS. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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